Rec'd April 23d
Ans April 30th

Independence, April 17, 1846.

My Dear Sir:

It is to correct an error which I committed in my letter of 11th inst. that I so soon molest you again. That letter you will doubtless have received ere this, which I sent you by my friend, Mr. Eugene Leitensdorfer, accompanied by $50, for the purpose of purchasing a few articles therein enumerated. I have just perceived, that in giving you a description of the Daguerreotype plates I wanted, I set down their dimensions at "3 5/8 by 4 1/8 inches," instead of "2 3/4 by 3 1/4 inches," as it should have been. The price I gave, "$3.50 per dozen," was correct for the size last mentioned, as stated to me by Mr. Miller, the Daguerreotypist. I hope my mistake will have occasioned no inconvenience, as the price will have shown the size I wished. The large size would be too large for my instrument.

In a letter to a friend of mine, Mr. J. M. Stanley, whom I expected would be at St. Louis, on his way here, I requested him to call on you, and take charge of the article which I

had sent for, provided you had met with no other opportunity to forward them. I also requested Mr. Stanley to procure me a Passport of the Mexican Consul, provided there is one in St. Louis— yet, I presume there is none. If there is, by chance, a Mexican Consul there, and Mr. Stanley should not have got out the Passport (for he may have left St. Louis before the arrival of my letter) will you be so kind as to procure me one, and forward it by mail, provided Dr. Wislizenus should have left— to whom I will hand over whatever charges there may be upon it, or remit to you, by you may suggest.

I have the honor to remain,
Very truly & respectfully
Your humble Servt.

Josiah Gregg

Dr. Georg Engelmann,
St. Louis.

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George Engelmann, M.D.

St. Louis,

Mo.

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Rec 2 June 16
Ans Dec 22d

Independence, June 10, 1846.

My Dear Sir:

Your truly kind and obliging favor of 30th March, — and your most valuable Memoranda by Dr. Wislizenus, — were duly received; and the only apology I have for not having answered them sooner, is, that I thought I would delay a little, until I could advise you of my immediate departure.

But delays have accumulated upon me, until I still find me here, without a perfect certainty as to when I can expect to be on the Prairies. I think I told you that I had made my arrangements to join the party of Col. Owens. His stock of goods were greatly delayed in reaching here, so that his last wagons have just started. Still, I should have been off at least a week ago, but for a very severe visitation of Scarlet fever in the family of a brother-in-law, in this vicinity. From the contagious character of the disease, it is difficult to procure a supply of nurses (for we have had as many as eight of the family seriously

and some dangerously ill at once), and, as well from inclination as duty, I have had to watch them,— scarcely having slept more than four hours in every twenty-four,— for the last fifteen or eighteen days: and, it may be, that my sister, whose condition is decidedly dangerous, may not be well enough for me to leave for a week to come.— I once had the small-pox among my party— four or five down with it at once— yet, I certainly never encountered so severe a form of disease as the present, of Scarlet fever. Its origin was sporadic in the family. Two have perished— a little niece, and a small black girl.

I received the article which you were so kind as to procure for me, by Dr. Mislizenus— all complete and in good condition:— and I know not how sufficiently to express my obligations to you, for your attention,— and very especially for the most valuable memorandum with which you have furnished me. I can only hope to be able, hereafter— not to repay you in equally valuable favors— but to reciprocate in at least an insignificant

degree, by forwarding you such specimens— as well zoological as vegetable and fossile— as I may suppose intersting to you: not so much to forward to others,— as you so kindly propose to do,— as for your own use.

I suppose Dr. Wislizenus is now injoying himself, in the midst of the prodigii vegetation of the Nueces Prairies— as the Party of Mr. Speyers (whom he joined) left some time ago.

I shall take the libirty of molesting you with an occasional communication, after I get upon the Plains and I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you frequently. Direct your favors to care of John Lewis, Merchant of this place, who will forward on to me by subsequent parties.

I have the honor to remain,
Truly and respectfully,
Your much obliged
Friend & Serv't.
Josiah Gregg.

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UNITED STATES
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George Engelmann, M.D.
St. Louis,
Mo.

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Rec'd March 19th
Ans April 13th

Monterey, Mexico, Feb. 10, 1847.

My Dear Sir:

I must acknowledge much neglect, in permitting so long an interval to elapse, without sending you either a communication or specimens of any kind; yet I know it has not been for want of desire to do so, but of leisure, material, and perhaps still more — of the necessary qualifications.

As to animals, nothing strikingly new or of important interest has presented itself: though even the few that I would have desired to preserve, I have lacked the necessary chemicals to dress the skins — to say nothing of the difficulty of procuring transportation. The field for geological research has been much more abundant, varied and interesting; yet I have really found my practical knowledge in that line too scant, to attend to it with any

Satisfaction to myself or profit to others.
Then the want of transportation is still more
felt in this line than in anything else.
Notwithstanding, when a direct opportunity
presents itself, I will send you whatever
specimens I may be able to get together.

In Botany I had done nothing until
lately — within the last two months or less.
Having sent my "portfolios" and drying paper
across the Prairies to Santa Fé, I have
been unable to procure any suitable
paper until I chanced to find at Saltillo,
an abundance of pretty fair quality. Since
that, I have collected from Saltillo here,
(rather to my own surprise, at this very un-
favorable season) nearly two hundred va-
rieties of plants — half or three-fourths of
which were in flower. I flatter myself
with the hope that at least a dozen
of these may prove new, and a chance
one interesting to you: if so, I shall
feel amply rewarded for the little pains
I have taken: for I have ventured to
put you up a small "book" with nearly

a hundred species, I think — though in my very great hurry, I did not count them. I send to care of Professor Short,* of Louisville, as I have met with a friend of conference going directly to that place.

I have put you up very few collected in this vicinity, as they were not dry enough: these and such as I may collect in the meanwhile, I will send you by next opportunity. Not only am I aware that many of those I send will prove familiar to you, but I have even put up (from some fancied interest, or amount of decay or locality) many of your common garden plants; such as rosemary, fennel, flax, &c. and even cottonwood. — I have thought it preferable to reduce the pack age to as small a compass as possible, even at the expense of overcrowding the plants, as bulk is a desideratum of some importance, where they have to be packed in baggage trunks, &c.

I doubt not you will frequently find the same plants thrice or thrice inserted, as I had not the leisure to pack with sufficient care. I doubt not also, that you will consider them very badly "handled;" yet I hope the fact of this

* Dr. Asa Gray's Bot. Chart — Dr. Short — Specimens sent to Dr. Short — Louisville — Ky.

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being my first attempt at practical botany will serve as apology. I think I shall be able to do Something better in future. And now that I have embarked in it, and contracted a decided interest in the collection of plants, I trust I shall be able, in the course of the ensuring Spring and Summer, to send you Several hundred Specimens— many new and Some interesting. the plants I have not attempted to collocate, in their botanical families: this of course you are much more capable of doing than I. I have striven to send you, whenever practicable several flowers of every Species, that you may have a Sufficiency for examination. As far as I knew them or have been able to procure them I have attached the Mexican names to the plants, with the virtues attributed to them by the people of the country; though upon these I do not place much reliance. When I could learn no name, nor any distinctive character, I frequently congregated Several plants under the Same label.

Although I cannot hope it will be of any important interest to you, I send you Several Specimens of wood: it may aid in determining Species. I will also send you as many Samples of Seed as I can get, from Saltillo, which will Stile assist you more in fixing the family.

frequent reports of the advance of a Large Mexican force in this direction, they have all turned out virtually false: the unfortunate capture of some of our reconnoitring parties, of which you will doubtless have heard already, has been the most important act of the enemy. I have no idea that there will be any general engagement until our army advance upon the Mexican.

In very great haste, I am truly,

Your friend &

Josiah Gregg

To Geo. Engelmann, M.D.
St. Louis, Mo.

As I could get no stiff pasteboard for "post folios, and as that I had prepared was too light, I have thought best to "stay" the package with reed splits — of that Species, by the way, of which I send you samples, of blades and tassel. And even the cord with which the package is bound may prove of some botanical interest to you: the coarsest is of the fibres of that same Species the finer twine is of the fibres of a particular Species of Magney (agave Americana), and called pita by the natives. It is used also for saddler's and shoe thread; yet, when intended for these purposes, it is not previously spun into thread, but a sufficient number of fibres are twisted together for the occasion, as the shoemaker does his "waxed-end."

I hardly deem it necessary to molest you with the news of the country, as I suppose you will be kept advised of everything that is interesting, through the papers. The truth is, there is little or nothing doing or occurring here now, with regard to "army operations" that could interest you; for though we have had

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Rec'd April 22d
Ans'd May 7th

Saltillo, Mexico, March 25, 1847.

My Dear Doctor:

From Monterey, I sent you, by the party of Gen. Butler, a "catch" of plants, as also one to Prof. Short. I hope they may have been duly received. I now send you another lot by Dr. Gabrielskie, who goes directly to St. Louis. I fear this will be more confused and uninteresting than even the other. I have had to put them up in the greatest haste; for not being advised in time, of the departure of the party, I worked at them, and the lot I accompany to Prof. Short, the whole of last night, without having gone to bed at all: and now I find I have to mount my horse and overtake the party; for I could not get everything ready in time. Therefore I am compelled to act in haste. The remarks accompanying the former package will serve to explain this. I hope to be able to send you another package before leaving here, when I will write you more fully. I intended sending you some mineral specimens, but had not time to put them up. I will send them hereafter. I send you a few specimens of wood and seeds, as you will perceive. I fear they will be of no account.

Please have the kindness to forward the Professor Short, the package directed to him: the two so bound up together.

I remain, Yours truly,

Josiah Gregg

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Dr. Geo. Engelmann,

St. Louis,

Care of

Dr. Zabriskie

Mo.

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Rec.d Aug 6th
Ans Aug 22d

Washington City, July 29, 1847.

My Dear Sir:

Your highly appreciated favor of 13th inst. has received in Philadelphia, where it arrived while I was absent in New York. Thinking I would not delay long in that City, I carefully requested to order my letters forwarded; and when I returned, I found yours in the office, with many others.

I doubly regretted not having received your letter in New York (enclosing the very grateful favor of Dr. Hildreth) on account of the instruments etc. which he ordered. For I could not find the "Viometer" nor even the prismatic Compass (goniometer?) anywhere in Phil.a; and I did not remain long enough there, on my return, to order them from New York. The truth is, it is doubtful if the road-measure could be had anywhere, without ordering it made. The only man I could hear of in Phil.a who had made them, lately died. And even if I could have got one made, it would have taken more time than I remained in the city.

Seeing no other chance to get a prismatic Compass, I wrote to my friend Alexander Megarey of New York, dealer in Nautical instruments, &c. to send you one and draw on you for the cost — provided this did not exceed some $15: should the price be greater, I directed him to write you information on the subject, and wait your orders. I put in the maximum of "some $15," because I have seen them priced as high as $20 or $25; and I was not sure if Dr. Millington would like to pay so much, as he may not have anticipated the high cost of the instrument. Fifteen dollars is, I believe, the lowest I have seen them priced — except mine, which I bought for $9, said to be unusually low.

I procured the Nautical almanac for 1848, which I will send to you from Louisville with the plants: that is, provided I do not go to St. Louis myself, which, though it would be exceedingly agreeable to me, is not very probable.

As the principal object of this note is to inform you touching Dr. Millington's instruments, etc. and of my having authorized Mr. Megarey to draw on you

for the Cost, if he send the Company, I will not undertake here to answer your last letter: I will defer a full Communication till I send the package of plants, which will be soon; as I will leave here in two or three days for Pittsburgh — and thence immediately down the Ohio.

Permit me to repeat my thanks for your kind notice and advice; and believe me, as I truly am,

Your Friend, etc.

Josiah Gregg.

Dr. Geo. Engelmann.

P. S. Please present my regards, and sincere thanks, to Dr. Wislizenus. His Barometrical Memoranda are very full and interesting to me: more copious, indeed, than I could have asked him to draw for me.

I regret I am not yet prepared to send him a table of my latitudes, etc. for want of leisure to make the Calculations; but I will not fail to profit by my leisure, on the Ohio river, and complete the Calculations, when I will send them immediately.

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Rec'd Aug 17th
Ans Aug 22

Louisville, Ky. Aug. 13, 1847.

My Dear Doctor:

You must allow me to apologize again for my delay in sending the collections, etc. which I have so long been promising you. I regret more particularly not having forwarded the Nautical Almanac, at an earlier day, even by mail, as it may not reach Dr. Wislizenus in time: yet I still thought, from day to day I should have everything ready to dispatch them together. But other indispensable business prevented me from completing the arrangement of the plants, until the present time; and I now dispatch a package with them and the Almanac, etc. on the Steamer "Monona," leaving today for your port.

Dr. Wislizenus's opinion that the Piñones, I sent you may have been baked a little, is very probable, as that is the most usual mode of preparing them for market. On this account I did not send them as seed to plant; but that you might see their appearance and character, and more particularly as a curiosity in the way of an edible: though I suppose you have received them already from Santa Fe. Although I observed no perceivable difference in the tree, you will have noted that those of Saltillo are both harder and larger than the New-Mexican.

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I feel really thankful to you, and shall profit by it hereafter, for your advice as to the preservation of plants, etc. and particularly with regard to Numbering. As I before observed to you, I had no hope that my collections, up to the present time, would be of interest enough, to keep a Series of Numbers, as I was but in my "schooling." I shall in future, however, - though still with very little hope of their being useful - number all the Specimens I collect. But I repeat that your instructions, in every other regard, have been of infinite use to me; and I can only endeavor to give an earnest of my gratitude, by striving to furnish you with a Series of the fruits of my labors — which, though they can have presented but little interest heretofore, I indulge a hope, may prove of more in future.

As I believe I before mentioned, the few geological Specimens I sent you, I could see no interest in, except as a sample, to show the character of the prevailing rock of the country. I do not know whether Dr. Wislizenus found any interesting fossils, in the same regions — at least I did not.

I send you a few Specimens (all I met with) of the yellow-vine, which, I believe you took a Special interest in. I will not fail to collect everything of the kind, I may meet with hereafter. And you will perceive that I have followed out

P.S. I have not yet been able to extract my collections from the Custom House; but I will do this as soon as I can get my trunks (which I sent by express) and will then send you a list of the Specimens I collected in Texas.

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your instructions in another regard; and that is of Collecting Specimens of everything I saw, be they interesting, new, handsome or otherwise.

As usual, you will also find the same plants duplicated frequently, and even put up in several places. This has occurred as well from oversight and ignorance sometimes, as often, perhaps, purposely; for I frequently collected the same plants, at different times and in different localities, not only to get better specimens, but to show their geographical extension. And though, in some cases, on re-adjusting them, I collected the species together, I had not time to do it in every case.

Though, as a general thing, I endeavored to keep the dates in regular succession, they became disordered, in some cases, in the drying, while travelling, and I neglected afterward to regulate them; therefore you will sometimes find considerable confusion in the dates, etc.

I have, this time, adopted a set of semi-hieroglyphic characters, to indicate, in a slight degree, the size and abundance of the plant, which you will find inserted on most of the labels. Thus (—) signifies scarce; (+) in medium abundance only; (X) abundant; and a duplication of these characters indicates an increase in their significations: as (— —) very scarce; (X X) very abundant, etc. Two different characters joined together implies a degree between them; as (+ —) rather scarce; &c. The number prefixed to the character shows the usual height

of the plant, in feet. Thus (2—) is read two feet high, scarce; (½+), ½ foot high and found in indicious abundance, only; (5X) five feet high and abundant; (1XX) one foot high and very abundant; ete. ete.

There are doubtless other explanations, which should be made, but I cannot now think of them. However, the explanations and remarks accompanying the previous packages are generally applicable to this.

The little I have expended for Dr. Wislizenus is of course not worth taking account of. Should opportunity present itself, of my being of any service to him or to you, I should take great pleasure in being occupied by you more frequently; and shall frankly acknowledge both of you, in a similar manner, as I have done heretofore.

I believe I mentioned, in my former letter, that I am bound directly for Saltillo again, and thence, possibly, for the City of Mexico. Any additional commands, I hope you will direct to me at Saltillo, via New Orleans and Matamoros. If you write early, please direct to care of Moses Greenwood (Commission Merchants, etc.) in New Orleans, and it my still find me there: if not, Mr. Greenwood will forward on.

I remain, most sincerely, my dear Sir,
Your friend and Servt.
Josiah Gregg.

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Rec'd Sept 1st
Ans'd Sept 18th

Vicksburg, Miss. Aug. 24, 1847.

My Dear Doctor:

I believe I have nothing at all of interest to communicate to you, except the accompanying table of latitudes, etc: which, though it was directed to Dr. Mitchell, I hope will also serve your purpose, so far as you may incline to turn your attention in that way. I should also send the notes upon which the Calculations were based, but I did not deem it of sufficient importance to trouble you with them; for the principal error must be those of the instrument.

I should have made more observations for longitude* during the Chihuahua tour, but, first, for want of time, on account of rapidity of marching: 2dly, Jupiter was not in position to observe his satellites to advantage; and 3dly, the moon, in the most important stretch — from Parras to Saltillo — both going and coming, — was too near the sun, to be used with accuracy. Besides, I found my sextant, roughly carried as it was, was not sufficiently reliable for lunar observations. My longitudes, taken at other periods, are, I feel very certain, within five miles, — which, you are aware, is about as near as we can expect to get it, with our ordinary means. My latitudes, prior to this last tour, as they

*I was also instructed by Colonel Abert, Chief of the Topographical Bureau, at Washington City, to make observations for latitude, at several important points on the Chihuahua road, Santa Rosa, Parras, Saltillo, Monterey, etc.

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were taken by sun, moon, planets and fixed stars — both north and south — I think I can generally warrant within a few seconds. But those on the Ohio & Red River route may often contain errors of full ½'; yet even these are accurate enough for all practical purposes.

Owing to the reports of the very great virulence of the yellow fever in New Orleans (and possibly at mouth Rio Grande, &c.) I have nearly concluded to turn my course up Red River and through Texas. In fact, after all, this route will suit me about as well as the other.

I remain, truly, Your friend & humble Servt.

Josiah Gregg.

Dr. George Engelmann,
St. Louis.

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P.S. If I go up Red River, I shall write to New Orleans, to have my correspondence forwarded accordingly: and though I may go through Texas, I shall still steer to the same point, Salt Hills: therefore, please direct as before, until I advise you further.

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Rec'd Dec 3d
Ans March 24th

New Orleans, Nov. 24, 1847.

George Engelmann, M.D.

My Dear Doctor:

You will doubtless be astonished to find me here at present: I am a little so myself. But I made a rather uncontemplated stop on Red R. with my Brother, on account of the illness of the yellow fever here, in the fall; and I remained much later than I had contemplated. But I am now on my way to Monterey & Saltillo — and I hope to the city of Mexico.

Your very kind favor of 21st Aug. was forwarded to me at Shreveport; and, as I contemplated being on my journey sooner, I delayed answering until I should arrive here. But truly, I have at present only leisure to acknowledge its receipt: I look over it and answer it more at leisure. But one thing I cannot omit to do: acknowledge — and thank again, most heartily — for the many useful and important suggestions you have (as heretofore) been so kind as to make.

As Red River, I suppposed to be, a rather unexplored region, as well botanically as geologically, I have made several collections, in both branches. An occasional item may possibly be new to you: at least, they may serve to show the geographical extension of species already known to you. As to Geology, I picked up a little of every thing so

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as to fill a box, until I got together a much greater bulk than I had contemplated — they include about every rocky formation to be found in the circle of my travels, except pebbles. I have done nearly the same botanically: omitting only such articles as I knew to be familiar further east and north. You will not suppose, of course, that I send you all this "stuff" for preservation: it is only for your inspection, expecting you to throw away all except an occasional article which you might find interesting and new — if any.

As the Specimens of coal, from near Shreveport, bear some resemblance, I think to the "Cannel" coal about Ste Louis, I should be much obliged to you, if you would examine it a little, and, should you deem it useful, write a brief statement of its character and value to my brother John Gregg, near Shreveport, La. Upon trial I found it burned with a very pretty blaze when fanned; but I had no grate to try it in.

You may perhaps be disposed to "scold" me for not numbering my plants: My present excuse is that I looked upon them as of too little importance: I assure you I shall commence a "regular series," as soon as I land on the borders of Mexico.

I send you a few sprigs of the long gray moss, with the seed-pods. You are of course familiar with the moss, but I thought you might possibly not have had opportunity to examine the seed. What say you as to the question of its being a true parasitical plant? taking root in the tree?

I found no well-marked fossils, except the petrified wood. I send you; nor vegetable remains, except recent ones, in the strata of "soapstone," &c.

It had long been my desire to request you to accept a copy of my "Commerce of the Prairies" not as an article of any value or interest to you, but as a token of friendship and gratitude on my own part. But when I have sent you packages heretofore, I had not a copy of the second edition at command. But I have now procured one — though I regret that it is not better bound; yet it is the only binding of this edition that I have, — which I trust you will do me the kindness to place in some unoccupied corner of your library.

I send the box by Steamer "Julia," and, as before, to care of Joseph Charless, Druggist.

You recollect Specimens of the bean of the Guizache which I sent you. In connection I think I mentioned that the natives made writing ink of them. I boiled carefully and very imperfectly a few of the hulls, and, adding a little sulphate of iron, the result was the ink with which I write this paragraph. I also boiled the seeds separately, but the result was a very impure color, — which convinced me that the virtue (gallic acid, I suppose) resides chiefly in the pericarp.

There were many plants in the lot I sent you (from Louisville) last which interested me very much, from their novelty, their beauty, their qualities, &c. concerning which I should like to hear your opinion, especially as to how many, if any are entirely new. Any particular favorite, I believe, was a willow-like shrub, called by the natives, Mimbre. Its flower when fresh was beautiful, and very odoriferous — that of a rose, with the scent of honey, &c. in addition. If I can procure any of the seeds, I will send them: there were none when I left.

I shall expect to hear from you. Direct to Saltillo, Mexico, via N. Orleans, Matamoros, &c. till further advice.

In haste, I remain, truly,

Your friend, &c.

Josiah Gregg.

P.S. Please excuse blunders, for I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Rec'd Feb 26
Ans March 24th

Saltillo, Mex. Jan. 24, 1848.

My Dear Doctor:

Your very gratifying favor of 17th Sept. (enclosing one from Dr. Wislizenus of 8th, which please permit me through you here to acknowledge), I found in the office upon my arrival here, nearly three weeks ago: and which I should have answered, ere now, but for want of leisure as well as material. And even now I cannot enter as fully into details as I should wish: though the less detail, the better perhaps, of dry matter.

As to botany, I have done virtually nothing yet: the month of December was unusually cold, so that, for a country here, vegetation was pretty much frost-bitten, except evergreen trees, of which I had already a tolerable assortment of specimens, which, being generally in flower, rendered those to be had at the present season uninteresting. — I shall therefore leave this subject — as well as other branches of natural history — to some future communication; for I have done little else as yet, but endeavor to let myself to rights, in my new domicil — having a little attention to medical practice, into which I have been drawn by the Mexicans.

We got news, little reliable news, from the interior. Great anxiety prevails among all our troops upon this line, with regard to their future destiny: they are worried beyond endurance with the inactive life they have led for the last 11 months. If they can not disband or, they want to go to Mexico via Vera Cruz, or to go home — anything but to lie here. As for my own part, I have not entirely lost hope of this Column being ordered forward as far as San Luis, whence a communication may be opened to the City of Mexico by Gen. Scott's Army. I shall therefore not be in haste to leave here, with a view of proceeding to Mexico, a northern route. So, for the present, please direct to this place).

My trip from the U. S. line was one of the most fatiguing, as well as annoying, I ever experienced. More so than, than I ever had across the Great Western Prairie, to Santa Fé. Though I had a dreadful voyage across the Gulf — 17 days, out from N. Orleans, to Brazos! — the height of my labor and vexations, were from Matamoros here. This town, owing, chiefly,

P.S. The Cincinnati Chronicle, the Louisville Courier, and the Louisville Journal, are the papers I want.

two circumstances: first, a large "train" I just left Cairo, before I arrived, & therefore I deemed it expedient to every exertion to overtake it, to travel under protection of the escort: I was therefore unable to prepare myself with the necessary outfit, &c.: and secondly, not being personally acquainted with a single officer belonging to the train escort, I could get no aid or accommodations; and therefore, having a little more "luggage" than I could conveniently get along with, I was troubled without measure.

This has suggested to me the expediency of endeavoring to procure from the Department at Washington, an order to have my necessary baggage and travelling equipments handled in the Government Wagons, which are seldom or never heavily laden. I think, if the objects of my tour were made known to the proper department, I could not fail to be furnished with such an order. The last 12 months of my life have been dedicated to the public service, with considerable pecuniary loss to myself; and, I am sure the future will be still more strictly of public character.

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As I feel loth to ask directly for such an order, my self, I should be greatly obliged to you, should you have a suitable acquaintance at Washington, if you would suggest the matter there. Should you think proper to make the representation, please direct that, should such an order be procured, it be forwarded to me, to Care of Capt. W. W. Chapman, Quarter Master at Matamoros, who will forward to me wherever I may be.

If we could procure an order to this effect, I should then be enabled to send out any collections I may make. — The order should include any necessary travelling equipage for such a tour as I am upon, instruments, chemicals, preparations, Collections, &c.

Please pardon this communication. It is only a suggestion which you can act upon or not as you may deem expedient.

Remain, my Dear Doctor,

Very truly, Your friend, &c.

Josiah Gregg.

Dr. G. Engelmann,
St. Louis.

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Rec March 14
Ans April 24

Mexico, Feb. 1st 1849.

My Dear Doctor:

A good long while has elapsed, it is true, since I have written you, though it is still longer since I have received anything from you. The truth is, our mail arrangements, as you know, must be very bad. For I have not received a letter from the U.S. since a short time after peace was made, when they were forwarded, not by regular charge from the American to the Mexican Post-office, but by a friend at Fort Brown, opposite Matamoras. Now, not only many relatives, but many friends, I am sure, have since written me numerous letters, as well to Saltillo, as to this place, and not a single one has come. Six months or more have elapsed since I have received a line from the U.S. This is most annoying; and what makes it more so, is the reflection that it must be on account of carelessness in our own Postmaster, in not passing the letters from the Ports, by proper conveyance, into the Mexican republic; for all my letters written me within the republic come regularly and therefore, I feel sure if they were paid to the Ports, those would come likewise.

Well, a word concerning my own arrangements. I left Saltillo in December (as I wrote you, I expected to do) and arrived here on 8th Jan. I have been occupied since chiefly in looking at the city and surrounding country. I make very few botanical collections in this vicinity, as I presume there is nothing new. Could I, unfortunately

make many between Saltillo and this place, as it was too much out of the way — A few winter plants and shrubs only could I pick up. The fact is, most of those on the way (being high valleys, plains and mountains) were those found about Saltillo.

When I left Saltillo, I had not my future route fully planned out: but as I believe I had written you, I have, ever since entering Mexico last time, contemplated a tour upon the Pacific Coast, as far north as California, and perhaps Oregon: and now that so much is said about the mines of California, I have the additional inducement to go that way. I have therefore about determined — if not positively determined — to leave here toward first of March for the Pacific Coast, via Morelia (formerly Valladolid), Guadalajara, &c. to Mazatlan. If I find I can still proceed with safety by land, I shall continue through the interior to Guaymas — there cross the Gulf of California and proceed to San Diego, Monterey & San Francisco. But it is possible, owing to the danger of travelling by land, in some places, that I may conclude to embark at one of the ports, before reaching San Francisco. Still I shall be loth to do this, as all the sea route is of course time lost. This route you will see is almost wholly "untrod" by the botanist, geologist, or naturalist of any kind: and it being in a fine season for botany, I hope to be able to make some interesting collections in that line, to which I am chiefly addicted.

In your last letter you proposed to me to make botanical collections and send you for sale. A want of time and transportation prevents me from collecting (and more especially in Geology) as extensively as

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I should. Still, I now make it a point, whenever I can get them, to put up a dozen or more botanical specimens of every species—all of which I shall send to you; for I find it too inconvenient to make distinct packages to send so far to different points. With these you will be at liberty to make whatever disposition you may choose—present—sell—and keep—as you may think fit; but without requiring any pecuniary return to me. All I ask—I will not say in return, for this would be asking too much for so little—but as a favor,—is, that, at your leisure you examine them, and write me out a brief (but quite brief indeed) botanical sketch of ale the Country I have travelled over since entering Mexico last—or rather since I commenced collecting botanical specimens in 1847. This I should wish to use (with full acknowledgement to you, of course) within about a year—if nothing happens.

I shall send you (via Vera Cruz) before leaving this place, my entire botanical collections, &c. not very extensive, to be sure, as I was most of the time at Saltillo, whose vicinity I had explored pretty well before: still—all in all—including duplicates of many sent you before—I suppose I must have nearly as many specimens as I sent you before. There will all go Numbered, keeping a Memorandum of them myself.

I can't tell you how or where to write me until I reach San Francisco: in fact, an answer started from there immediately would perhaps not reach that place, at once, by mail—or by private conveyance. I will write again, when I forward my Collections: meanwhile remaining most

Truly Yours &c—

Josiah Gregg.

Geo. Engelmann, M.D.
St. Louis, Mo.

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Dr. Engelmann
St. Louis,
Missouri.

Rec'd 19 May
Ans'd 27

Mexico, April 14, 1849.

My dear Sir:

I have various letters of yours before me, the latest of which are of Aug. 4 and 28 - 1848 - and Feb. 18, 1849. The two first I have already answered, which I hope you have received. My last letter was dated Feb. 1, by Vera Cruz, which I hope you have received; yet I will repeat some things here, to provide against accidents to the other.

In your letter of Aug. 4, you speak of a "dry berry" which I sent you a seed of the *junco* (green-thorn-plant). I aimed at last to send you as well as Dr. Short, large bunches of these berries. You say you had supposed it of some other plant; yet if you received the right ones, I don't know how you could mistake them, as they had things with thorns connected with them.

In yours of Aug. 18, You make a proposition to collect plants for sale. Circumstances and means of transportation will not permit me to collect as extensively as would be requisite for that: nevertheless I make it a point to collect a considerable number of specimens of every plant, when I can get good ones - all of which I will send you; ~~but~~ not for sale or my account, but for you

P.S. Since writing this letter I received your favor of March 23. - Since writing the above I have received a letter from Dr. Short, dated March 7, and one from Torrey, dated March 17. I am very much obliged to you for the interest you take in my behalf, and I will endeavor to do all I can to repay you with the same coin. I am almost ashamed to have written this letter to you who have written so many and such interesting letters to me, and received so few in return. But the fact is, I have been so much occupied in collecting and preparing specimens, that I have had no time to write. I have written to Dr. Short, and to Torrey, and to Gray, and to Vasey, and to Wood, and to Curtis, and to Buckley, and to Hooker, and to Lindley, and to Asa Gray, and to Engelmann, and to Wislizenus, and to Kennedy, and to Lyon, and to Hall, and to Parry, and to Thurber, and to Fendler, and to Wright, and to Bigelow, and to Sartwell, and to Dr. Wislizenus, and to Dr. Wislizenus, and to Dr. Wislizenus

to make whatever disposition of them you may think proper. All I shall solicit of you (as I said in my last) is that, provided your occupations permit, you write me out a brief (though quite brief-limited to a short appendix) account of the botany of the regions through which I have travelled, before commencing to forward your specimens: yet this I ask as a favor, and not as recompence for anything I have done or may do; for the trouble has doubtless been more on your side than mine.

I hope to be able to publish within a twelvemonth, as I shall probably make my way home pretty direct from California. I have now just up to send you from here some 700 specimens, including all my collections since I last entered Mexico. Among these I purposely embraced a great number of those I had already sent — many others have doubtless been introduced without my knowing it: nevertheless, I think more than half are distinct, and a few, I hope, new and interesting. I have now followed the system of numbering as you directed; but I find it impossible at present to copy you my notes; yet I will do it as soon as possible and send you.

I wrote you before of my contemplated tour to California — through the States of Mexico, Michoacan, Jalisco, Sinaloa & Sonora —

"Trouble" &c
I will copy
and send
them
as soon
as
possible

Your
favor
of
Nov 1st
&
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the most interesting botanical route that I can now well imagine. I hope to forward you something of interest at the conclusion of this term.

I believe your last letter contains nothing requiring special answer. I perceive by it that some of my letters had not reached you. This last of yours was forwarded me from Santa Fe to this city.

You will doubtless be surprised to find me here so late: I am myself, indeed, but numbers of interesting things have been daily presenting themselves to detain me among these Central Mexican parts and whole of the Republic, which I have got the privilege of copying. In this line I feel sure I can produce something much more accurate than has ever been published.

My botanical collections about here amounted to but few, as I not only suppose the country well explored, but the season has been particularly bad — the country burned up with drought: I had not seen a drop of rain since sometime before leaving Saltillo, till 10 or 12 days ago: and though you speak of hard winter — ice — snow — sleet, &c. — I have scarcely witnessed a frost: the only times I have seen the thermometer as low as the freezing point was two or three mornings on the plains this side of Saltillo. In this City I have scarcely seen it below 40°

Very truly, your friend, &c.

Josiah Gregg.

* Since writing the above I have received a letter from Mr Hall, in which he informs me that a copy of his Catalogue of Mexican plants is in the press of Messrs Wiley & Putnam, New York.

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St Louis

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George Engelmann, M.D.

Saint Louis,

Missouri.

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Rec'd Aug 30th
Ans Sept 27

Manatlan (on Pacific Coast) June 30, 1849.

My Dear Doctor:

I wrote to you from Mexico and Guadalajara; yet, lest those letters might fail to reach you, I will repeat here, that I left, in the City of Mexico, with Messrs. McCalmont, Geary & Co. to be forwarded ~~immediately~~ to Vera Cruz, all my collections of plants &c., in one box, marked to your address, and to care of Messrs Greenwood, New Orleans.

I arrived here on the 7th instant, and have since been occupied in preparing my collections, to be sent to you. As I believe I before informed you, I now send all to you, as it is too troublesome to make divisions. On the present occasion, it is true, I have separated a small herbarium, putting a specimen or two of everything which would bear division, though it is not as complete as the other. This I have done, principally with the object of guarding against the loss of the first, which I will have shipped to you by the first vessel for the U. S. The second I will afterward (in another vessel) have shipped either to you or to Professor Short. So, should you receive neither you can inquire if he has received the one alluded to, which, under such circumstances,

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I hope he will place at your disposition. Should you both receive, please furnish Prof. Short, with such notes as he may require, from the Botanical Memoranda which I send you (as before, packed on top of one of the boxes of plants), for I have not had time to get two copies taken. Nor even have I found leisure to examine closely the copy I send you; yet from a glance, I think it approximately correct. The numbers of the two herbariums I cause correspond. They now ascend to 1250-odd, there being nearly 600 in the herbarium I now send you.

It has not rained from any distance beyond Guadalajara to this place, since September last - until a few days past, when we have had some light showers, indicative that the rainy season is about commencing. Owing to the protracted drought, I have collected but very little on this side of Guadalajara, except of trees and shrubs; and even of these I have had to pass many, to me new and interesting, for want of either flower or fruit, and often even for want of leaves: for it was "mid-winter" in the vegetable kingdom on this route.

You will doubtless find all the defects in this that you have met with in my former collections: yet I hope you will meet with more that is interesting. - On this tour, I have had a young German with me, by name of Runckel, a pretty fair practical Naturalist, who has been of a good deal of service to me, particularly in the preparation of fowls. Of these I send you some 15 or 16 specimens - but some of them are nearly spoiled. They were prepared by Mr. Runckel. Then I rather send for deposite with you as it may turn out that I may want at last some of them hereafter, and therefore would not ask you to take the trouble to have them prepared and set up.

I also send you a few Shells, as well as some vials of insects &c. from about here — none however, which seem to me to be of any special intrest. Also a few specimens of rocks and wood. I have not followed your instructions in either of these, as it seemed to me that the size you gave, would have occasioned too much bulk and weight, especially in my land-tours. I also send a good many seeds — sometimes wrapped in Separate papers, but often just up in the herbariums, with the plants to which they pertain.

I had fully intended — as I wrote you from Lupin — to Continue my tour, by land, to California; but, since my arrival here, I have concluded to abandon it — much, indeed to my own regret. Yet, as I am not very strong in health, and the heat and fatigue are so great, I have begun to fear that I may not very well be able to endure two or three months more of such exposures in such an unpropitious season: and, withal, with so little of intrest before me, particularly in the vegetable kingdom: for although the rainy season is about Commencing it will only serve to annoy — to wet — make bad roads — raise the waters — without much improving vegetation in time for me.

Thinking of nothing else, just now, to tell you, I close by assuring you of my Constant endeavors to keep you informed and supplied with everything of intrest which Comes in the way of

Your Friend & Servt.

Josiah Gregg.

Dr. George Engelmann,
St. Louis, Mo.

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Our news from California is not near so flattering to the Gold-diggers. The placers are said to be failing very much; yet I think it is chiefly owing to the overflowing of the Sacramento river. When the water subsides again, I am in hopes the mines will assume their flourishing condition — at least to a degree. It should be borne in mind, however that the former Bonanza, equally with the present unfavorable condition, have doubtless been greatly exaggerated.

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